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(54) MOLDED POLY-GAMMA-GLUTAMIC ACID AND METHOD FOR MOLDING POLY-GAMMA-GLUTAMIC ACID

(57)Abstract:

PURPOSE: To obtain a practical molding such as a fiber or a film from poly-?-glutamic acid produced by *Bacillus subtilis* by solidifying a solution of poly-?-glutamic acid by a molding process comprising steps such as coagulation, drying, etc.

CONSTITUTION: Poly-?-glutamic acid (of a molecular weight of 400000-4400000 desirably 700000-2500000) is dissolved in a solvent (e. g. water, sulfuric acid or heated dimethylsulfoxide) to form a solution, and the obtained solution is subjected to a molding process comprising steps of coagulation, drying, etc., such as spinning or film forming processes to obtain a molding such as a fiber or a film. The poly-?-glutamic acid is dissolved under conditions in which the decrease in its molecular weight can be minimized, and the solution is solidified by a molding process such as spinning under such conditions. Thus, poly-?-glutamic acid produced by *Bacillus subtilis* (e.g. *Bacillus natto*) can give a practical molding such as a fiber or a film.

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